



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MICHAEL R. STYLER
Executive Director

Division of Water Rights

KENT L. JONES
State Engineer/Division Director

February 6, 2017

Dear Lower Bear River Water Users:

The successful and proper operation of the Lower Bear River Distribution System relies on many participants. Under state law, water users are responsible to provide means to control and measure the water they divert. About eleven years ago many measuring devices with telemetry were installed on the Lower Bear River Distribution System with Utah Division of Water Rights and the Distribution System supplying the operation and maintenance, but with the water users responsible for their own measuring device repairs or replacement. This policy has not been strictly adhered to and the system has borne some of the equipment costs associated with measuring device repairs in past years. At the 2016 Annual Distribution Meeting, Pacificorp noted that they pay 75% of the system expenses, and stated that measuring devices shouldn't be a distribution system expense as they are not part of the telemetry. After some discussion, a motion was passed by the water users to end the practice of using system funds to cover replacement parts for measuring devices.

When a measuring device fails, it is important to quickly repair or replace it to maintain the integrity of the real-time records. Our practice has been, and will continue to be, to assist and make necessary repairs as soon as possible. If your measuring device fails, Division staff will contact you before they make any repairs. If you wish to make your own repair, please discuss your plan and scheduled activities so we can plan for the resumption of automated measurement. If you approve we will expedite resumption of measurement service by making needed repairs as our schedule permits and include the cost of any replacement parts on your annual assessment following the repair. We will notify you regarding the charges added to your distribution account as we complete the repair so you can plan for the additional assessment. A late fee of 10% is charged on all unpaid assessments each year so it is important to pay promptly when the assessment arrives.

In the past eleven years, seven of about fifty irrigation water meters stopped working without any obvious reason or damage. This does not include meters damaged from accidental or deliberate abuse or human error. Electronic water meter replacement transducers cost approximately \$800. A new meter costs \$1100, but we have not replaced a meter yet. On-off sensors cost about \$15. These costs have all decreased in recent years, which is a helpful trend.

The following guidelines may help prolong the service life of water meters:

- Protect electronic sensors and wiring from moisture and elements.
- Request water resistant replacement parts if moisture is a problem.
- Maintain electrical power during the entire irrigation season to prevent unnecessary field inspections or service calls. (A proper solar panel and battery have proven to be reliable and economical.)
- Prevent vandalism, unauthorized access, damage from livestock, etc.

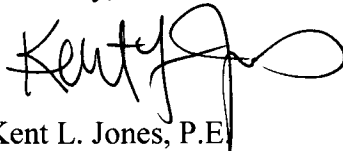


Repairs or replacement of flumes or weirs in open channels are generally beyond the resources the Division has available to keep automated systems operational and will remain the sole responsibility of the owners.

Please periodically review your water measurements on our website during operation to observe the flow reported, and notify Jim Watterson, Lower Bear River Water Commissioner, at (435) 213-0506 if you have questions or concerns relating to your water deliveries or the performance of your measuring device.

Thank you for your continued diligence in helping to ensure that your irrigation water diversions are measured and reported correctly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kent L. Jones", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kent L. Jones, P.E.
State Engineer

cc: Jim Watterson, Water Commissioner
Todd Ballard, Lower Bear River Committee Chairman

KLJ/mtb